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Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Human rights questions

Letter dated 22 October 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement issued on 20 October 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan in connection with the forthcoming election of the President of Kazakhstan on 10 January 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 33 and 110.

(*Signed*) Akmaral Kh. **Arystanbekova**
Ambassador
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Annex

Statement issued on 20 October 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan

In connection with the forthcoming presidential election, to be held on 10 January 1999, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been authorized to state the following.

Kazakhstan, which is committed to the basic values of democracy and believes that free, open and fair elections are an important component of democracy, is making every effort to conduct the presidential election called for by Parliament on the basis of a wide range of choices, with the participation of international observers. In accordance with the recommendations of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the election campaign will be held in conditions that ensure freedom of expression, assembly and association.

The Central Electoral Commission of Kazakhstan keeps Kazakh citizens and public opinion well informed about the electoral process, deadlines for nominating and registering candidates, and other election-related issues. The registration of presidential candidates will begin on 10 November and end on 30 November 1998, that is, 40 days before election day. A month – from 10 October to 10 November 1998 – has been set aside for the nomination of candidates. Thus, all the necessary conditions have been met for the free expression of the will of citizens who wish to exercise their constitutional right to vote or run for office.

Kazakhstan also considers it necessary to ensure that the election is observed. On instructions from the Central Electoral Commission of Kazakhstan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is inviting representatives of foreign States and international organizations to take part in observing the election of the President of Kazakhstan.

Once observers from foreign States and international organizations have submitted their applications, which should be sent directly to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or through embassies and permanent missions of Kazakhstan in foreign countries, the observers will be accredited by the Central Electoral Commission, which will issue the appropriate certification.